



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of Inspector General
Washington, D.C. 20230

August 19, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: Jon W. Dudas
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent
and Trademark Office

Judith J. Gordon
FROM: Judith J. Gordon
Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation

SUBJECT: FISMA Evaluation of USPTO's Enterprise Remote Access
system and Landon IP system

As part of our work under the Federal Information Security Management Act, we are initiating an evaluation of USPTO's certification and accreditation (C&A) of the Enterprise Remote Access system and Landon IP contractor system. Our objective is to determine whether the C&A process for these systems produced sufficient information about remaining system vulnerabilities to enable the authorizing official to make a credible, risk-based accreditation decision.

The key steps in a successful C&A process are (1) accurately categorizing the system and identifying its components; (2) selecting, tailoring, and supplementing baseline security controls; and (3) assessing these controls. These three areas will be the primary focus of our evaluation of each system.

As a first step, we have scheduled an entrance conference with key members of your staff for Friday, August 22, 2008. In the meantime, if you have any questions about this review, please contact me at (202) 482-2754 or Allen Crawley, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Systems Evaluation, at (202) 482-1855.

cc: John J. Doll, Commissioner for Patents, United States Patent and Trademark
Office
Wendy Garber, Acting Chief Information Officer, United States Patent and
Trademark Office
Welton Lloyd, Audit Liaison, United States Patent and Trademark Office